



News Release

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CELEBRATE THE HOLIDAYS WITH RIVERSIDE'S FESTIVAL OF LIGHTS

RIVERSIDE, CA – For the 17th consecutive year, Downtown Riverside will host one of America's most spectacular holiday light displays — The Riverside Festival of Lights. The Festival of Lights is presented by The Mission Inn Hotel & Spa. The celebration will kick-off with the Switch-On Ceremony on Friday, November 27, at 6:15 p.m. with the lighting of more than three and a half million holiday lights on The Mission Inn Hotel & Spa and surrounding buildings in downtown Riverside. After the Switch-On Ceremony, the festival will continue through January 3, 2010. Last year more than 100,000 visitors came to downtown Riverside to see the most dazzling holiday spectacle south of the North Pole.

Festivalgoers will once again be able to enjoy the magic ice skating outdoors under the lights in downtown Riverside. For those who just can't get enough time on the ice, the City of Riverside is offering a frequent skater card! Details can be found at www.riversidefestivaloflights.com. Along with the ice skating rink, visitors can expect their favorite attractions from prior years including Santa Claus, free live entertainment, scenic carriage rides and vendors with tasty treats and specialty holiday keepsakes.

As always, the Festival of Lights creates the perfect opportunity to enjoy the fine dining and shopping venues of Downtown Riverside. Exquisite restaurants, catering to nearly every taste imaginable, are just a short walk from the festival. Several unique stores selling chic clothing, antiques and handmade jewelry create the perfect solution for the lengthiest of shopping lists. Nearby parking is free after 5 p.m. on weekdays and all-day on weekends and holidays.

Nightly entertainment comes from a wide variety of local community groups, schools and professional entertainers, resulting in more than 200 hours of performances throughout the event. More than ten thousand visitors took to the ice and nearly five thousand people shared their holiday wish lists with Santa.

Join The Mission Inn Hotel & Spa and the City of Riverside as we carry the festival's momentum through 2009 and into 2010. For more information about the event or providing entertainment, call (951) 826-2391 or visit www.riversidefestivaloflights.com.

About The City of Riverside

With a population of 300,430, the City of Riverside is ranked as the 12th largest city in California and the 6th largest city in Southern California. The City is the seat of the 2nd fastest growing county in the nation and leads the region known as the Inland Empire in virtually every measure of economic power.

Riverside's location positions it as one of Southern California's major transportation hubs. The City is accessible via Interstate 215, the Riverside (91) and 60 Freeways and BNSF and UPSP railroads. Riverside is home to four nationally recognized higher education institutions, supporting a student population of 50,000. As the home of several exciting events such as The Riverside Festival of Lights and Smithsonian Week, Riverside is the perfect place to live, learn, work and play. For more information, visit www.riversideca.gov.

About The Mission Inn Hotel & Spa

Originally opened in 1903, the Mission Inn incorporates design elements from throughout the southwestern United States and several Mediterranean countries. The hotel features 239 guest rooms, including 28 suites, and four restaurants: Duane's Prime Steaks and Seafood; AAA Four-Diamond restaurant, Las Campanas, authentic gourmet Mexican cuisine; The Mission Inn Restaurant and Spanish Patio; and Bella Trattoria, a Southern Italian-style bistro. In addition, the hotel offers the luxurious, European-style Kelly's Spa, a swimming pool and Jacuzzi, The Mission Inn Museum and access to championship golf, shopping and other recreational activities.

The hotel, which is situated on an entire city block of the quaint Mission Inn District of Riverside, California, is listed in the National Register of Historic Places and is a State of California Historic Landmark. For more information or reservations please call 1-800-843-7755 or go to www.missioninn.com.

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